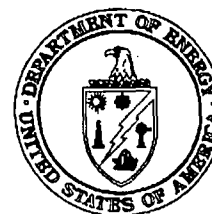


**Department of Energy**

**Ohio Field Office
Fernald Closure Project
175 Tri-County Parkway
Springdale, Ohio 45246
(513) 648-3155**



FEB 24 2005

Mr. James A. Saric, Remedial Project Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V-SR-6J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

DOE-0170-05

Mr. Tom Schneider, Project Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
401 E. 5th Street
Dayton, OH 45402-2911

Dear Mr. Saric and Mr. Schneider:

**NOTIFICATION OF PERMANENT SHUT DOWN OF THE ADVANCED
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY PHASES I AND II, AQUIFER
RESTORATION WASTEWATER PROJECT AT THE FERNALD CLOSURE
PROJECT**

This letter is a follow up to our January 20, 2005 meeting where the start up for Converted Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (CAWWT) and subsequent shut down of AWWT Phases I and II was discussed. When the CAWWT comes online, the Fernald site will have approximately 1200 gallons per minute (gpm) treatment capacity dedicated to groundwater (~1400 gpm with SPIT) and a total storm water/remediation wastewater treatment capacity of over 800 gpm (current capacity is about 850 gpm). This treatment capacity, along with the ability to temporarily manage storm water in various excavations at the site, will enable the Department of Energy (DOE) to continue to maintain the site's uranium discharge limits to the Great Miami River, while pursuing accelerated site closure. Therefore, DOE intends to permanently shut down the AWWT Phases I and II once CAWWT has successfully demonstrated to operate as designed. This permanent shut down of AWWT Phases I and II is anticipated to occur in March 2005, making way to begin safe shut down, D&D, and on-site disposal of those portions of the AWWT no longer needed. The SPIT and IAWWT will stay on line and provide additional storm water or groundwater treatment capacities through this summer, if necessary.

Mr. James Saric
Mr. Tom Schneider

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At the January 20th meeting, OEPA raised concerns about the timing of the permanent shutdown of AWWT Phases I and II, given that remediation of the waste pits and soils at the site was not as far along as was projected in the Spring of 2004, and expressed concerns that the AWWT Phases I and II treatment capacity may be needed to provide stormwater treatment from those areas. The DOE has evaluated the progress of these remediation efforts and determined that available wastewater treatment capacity in CAWWT, SPIT, and IAWWT will be sufficient to handle the impacted storm water from the remaining excavation areas and also maintain the progress on the aquifer restoration.

Originally, our designs called for all of AWWT to be removed and replaced with a much smaller system with a storm water/remediation wastewater treatment capacity of approximately 500 gpm (February 2004) considering the "remaining impacted drainage area" stipulation. The remaining drainage-area stipulation was subsequently dropped when the DOE accommodated your agencies' requests for additional capacity, and the 1,800 gpm CAWWT concept was adopted and approved. The current CAWWT design provides an enhanced storm water/remediation wastewater capacity of about 600 gpm at CAWWT plus an additional capacity of 225-275 gpm at IAWWT (as backup to CAWWT) through July 2005.

Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to inform your agency that DOE intends to permanently shut down the AWWT Phases I and II once CAWWT has successfully demonstrated to operate as designed and that this is anticipated to occur in March 2005. The SPIT and IAWWT will stay on line and provide additional storm water or groundwater treatment capacities through this summer, if necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dave Lojek at 513-648-3127.

Sincerely,


for William J. Taylor
Director

FCP:Lojek

Mr. James Saric
Mr. Tom Schneider

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DOE-0170-05

cc:

J. Reising, OH/FCP
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K. Alkema, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS01
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D. Nixon, Fluor Fernald, Inc./MS01
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